

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on April 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJ 28, 4/20/2017; SJ 31, 4/20/2017

Executive Action: HJ 28, Be Tabled
SJ 31, Do Pass

00:00:44 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON SJ 31

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:25 Sen. Mary McNally (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SJ 31, Interim study of utility decoupling.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:15 Diego Rivas, NW Energy Coalition

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:10:00 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:10:29 Sen. Connell

00:12:01 Mr. Rosquist, PSC

Closing by Sponsor:

00:12:32 Sen. McNally

00:13:18 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON HJ 28

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:13:41 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, opened the hearing on HJ 28, Interim study of natural gas customer choice.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:16:48 Robert Silverberg, Crius Energy (CE)

00:19:37 John Iverson, Big Sky Gas

Opponents' Testimony:

00:20:21 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources Group

00:26:35 Sen. Malek entered the hearing.

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:26:49 Sen. Connell
00:27:41 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission
00:28:51 Sen. Connell
00:30:58 Mr. Forrester, MDU
00:31:44 Sen. Connell
00:32:22 Mr. Silverberg, CE
00:32:57 Sen. Barrett
00:33:45 Rep. Bishop

Closing by Sponsor:

00:35:05 Rep. Bishop
00:36:03 Chair Ankney

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 31

00:36:25 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SJ 31 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:36:50 Sen. McNally
00:36:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-1 by voice vote with Sen. Kary voting no. Sen. Blasdel voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 28

00:37:39 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **HJ 28 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

00:38:06 Chair Ankney
00:39:04 Sen. Barrett
00:40:05 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-8 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Malek, Sen. McNally, Sen. Tempel and Sen. Wolken voting aye. Sen. Blasdel voted by proxy.
00:41:15 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **HJ 28 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED.** Motion carried 12-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel was excused.
00:41:57 Sen. Wolken

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:40 PM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens81aad.pdf](#))